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tween the Geats and the Swedes indicate that they were neighbors. They were often at war; Swedish political refugees fled to the Geats; and even Beowulf and his kinsman Wiglaf seem to have been descended from a Swedish house. Second, assuming that the Geats and the Jutes were the same, it seems strange that these people should have had no dealings with their neighbors, the Saxons. But if the Geats and the Gauts were identical, their distance from the Saxons would explain the silence concerning them. Third, if the "Geatas" were the Jutes, the "Dene," the Danes, the "Sweon," the Swedes, where were the Gauts? How is it that the constant relations between the Danes, Jutes, and Swedes never involved the Gauts?

Finally, the natural setting of the events in *Beowulf* explicitly demands high cliffs, a mountain stream, a cave, and an elevation for "*Beowulfes beorh*." This topography is not to be found in Jutland, especially not in the region where Fahlbeck localized the events, but on the contrary it is characteristic of the coast of Halland, Västergötland, and Bohuslän.

Into the validity of Professor Schück's arguments we cannot at present enter. It is enough to say that they demand careful consideration, not only for their own sake, but because they place the points at issue clearly before us. The matter cannot be too thoroughly sifted, for a decision in regard to the location of these peoples is of great importance to students of early Germanic literature.

VICTOR OSCAR FREEBURG.

*College of the City of New York.*

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SVENSK LJUDHISTORIA. Av Axel Kock. Första Delen, Pp. 504, Lund, 1906. Andra Delen, Första Hälften, Pp. 240, 1909. Senare Hälften, Pp. 241-429, 1911.

No part of the field of Germanics is at present cultivated more extensively or with greater success than the Swedish language in its earlier periods. The material that has been issued, principally from the Universities of Upsala and Lund, during the last decade and a half has been so extensive in quantity and so important in its nature as to make the period epoch-making for the historical study of the Swedish language. And in this work it is the name of Kock that we meet with most often, it is contributions by him that form the milestones of progress in the research into the past of Swedish. In the *Arkiv för nordisk Filologi*, of which he is Editor-in-chief, there have, to mention only recent ones, appeared articles on U-Breaking, volume XIX, Word-Formation, vol. XXI, Etymological Studies, volumes XX, and XXIV, Sixteenth Cen-

tury Swedish, vol. XXV, and a series of shorter investigations in vol. XXII and elsewhere. To other Swedish periodicals he has made frequent contributions as e. g. *Historisk Tidskrift*, XXV, 1-23 in which he treats the question: *Är Skåne de germanska folkens urhem?* and in *Nordisk Tidskrift* for 1908 upon: "Svenskans förbättring och försämring under de senaste århundradena." In addition to this he has published several volumes some of them of considerable extent, as *Språkhistoriska Undersökningar om Svensk Akcent* in two parts, *Studier öfver fornsvensk Ljudlära* also in two parts, and *Undersökningar i svensk Språkhistoria*. But he has also often gone beyond the field of Swedish proper into West Scandinavian, and general Germanic as in the articles on the sound-combination—*aiw*, Arkiv, XX, *a*-umlaut, Arkiv, XXVI, studies on some words in the Elder Edda, Arkiv, XXVII, (pages 107-140), and in various contributions in *Beiträge zur Geschichte der deutschen Sprache*, as e. g. one on "Vokalbalance im altfriesischen," XIX, 175-193.

Professor Kock's principal work, however, is the present one, the first volume of which was published in 1906. In this work he attempts nothing less than to offer a historical presentation of Swedish sounds from their Germanic equivalents, through the runic period, with special emphasis upon the Middle-age period, down to and including New Swedish. It is planned to issue the work in five volumes to be supplemented by an introductory survey of the development of the Swedish language. Such an exhaustive treatise upon a subject that in the main is wholly technical would seem to be a monumental task for anyone to undertake. For we must bear in mind that it involves familiarity with the literature upon primitive Germanic and general Germanic grammar, the runes and the runic inscriptions, Old Norse and Old Danish and the state of philologic research in Scandinavian in general in addition to the language with which he is immediately dealing. But when we know that a very considerable proportion of the research that had to be carried on before the writing of such a work was possible has been done by Kock himself it becomes truly remarkable that he should have been able to undertake it and, what is more, to have succeeded in completing and issuing nearly half of it (for Part I of vol. III is in press) in so short a time.

Among the most important aids to such a study the author makes due acknowledgement in the preface to the especially valuable lexical work of Schlyter and Collin-Schlyter, to Noreen's *Altschwedische Grammatik* (1904, Pp. 602) and *Altisländische Grammatik* (3rd ed. 1903, Pp. 418), and particularly to the work of Söderwall, whose great dictionary of

Middle-age Swedish has become indispensable to all workers in the history of Swedish, as Fritzner's for Old Norse and Kalkars for Old and Middle Danish. In his subdivisions of the language into periods Kock adheres to the one adopted in his *Fornsvensk Ljudlära*, II, pages 499 ff. in 1886. According to this the two main divisions, Old Swedish and New Swedish, are again subdivided so that the former consists of three and the latter of two divisions, i. e. oldest, early and late Old Swedish and early and late New Swedish. Old Swedish I is the period of the inscriptions, II, the period of the laws, 1200-1350, III, the period of standard Old Swedish, 1350-1525. Older New Swedish extends down to 1700. The motives for retaining these divisions Kock promises to discuss again in the introductory survey of the language. While linguistic grounds justify this five-fold division and while it certainly is convenient also to be able thus to identify the different periods with certain groupings of the material, it does seem to me that its complexity is a disadvantage. Why not adopt a three-fold division as is done in English and German and as is coming to be done in Norwegian? It matters not that they do not coincide in point of time. The new features that begin to appear in Swedish from 1350 on are sufficiently numerous to set the next 150 years or more distinctly apart as a transition period, and why not call this transition period Middle Swedish and that before Old Swedish? I firmly believe that the introduction of the threefold division here too would be a distinct advantage.

In Part I Kock presented the development of the vowels *i*, *e*, *a*, *ä*, *å*, *o*, *y*, long and short and in Part II, 1 *o*, *o*, and *u*. In II, 2, is accounted for in the same detailed manner the diphthongs *ai*, *au*, *öy*, *io*, *ia*, *iä*, *iü*, and *io*. The starting point is the evidence offered by the runic inscriptions, general Scandinavian forms are cited extensively wherever they reflect Swedish speech. It is the author's intention to treat the question of vowel-quantity in a separate chapter and he has therefore limited the discussion of the vowels for the present to their quality. He emphasizes the vowels of syllables with strong and half strong stress; vowels of unstressed syllables are treated only incidentally as these have been treated systematically by the author elsewhere. Similarly the question of accent is omitted, the student being here referred to the author's works on Swedish accent, of which *Die alt- und neu-schwedische Accentuierung* is probably best known to American philologists. The author goes beyond literary Swedish in the discussion of almost every vowel and here he is able to make good use of the vast storehouse of material published in *Bidrag till Kännedom om svenska Landsmälen*, issued by the

dialect societies of Upsala, Helsingfors and Lund and to which Kock himself has been a frequent contributor. And so local departures from standard speech are also taken account of. Here particular emphasis is laid upon the features that characterise the dialect of Gothland, philologically so interesting because in many respects so archaic (retention of the diphthongs) and because in its changes it shows a development peculiarly its own,—linguistically a West Scandinavian island in East Scandinavian territory. Finally the loan element is constantly given attention,—the development of the vowels of the borrowed words and cases of possible influence of these upon native Swedish words.

As has been noted the first part of volume III is already in press; it will contain a survey of umlaut and breaking in Swedish. This will then be followed by a discussion of vowel quantity; the final volumes will present the history of the consonants.

GEORGE T. FLOM.

*University of Illinois.*

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EXAMINATION OF TWO ENGLISH DRAMAS: "THE TRAGEDY OF MARIAM," BY ELIZABETH CAREW; AND "THE TRUE TRAGEDY OF HEROD AND ANTIPATER, WITH THE DEATH OF FAIRE MARIAM," BY GERVASE MARKHAM AND WILLIAM SAMPSON. = By Arthur Cyril Dunstan, Königsberg v. Pr., 1908; pp. 98.

This is a doctorate dissertation from Albertus University, Königsberg, and has to do with two little known dramatic versions of the Herod story. The work, if not brilliant, is marked by sanity and really contributes much to present knowledge of these interesting examples of Elizabethan tragedy. A brief introduction shows how both dramas have been neglected by other critics, and summarizes two accounts of the Herod-Mariamne incidents as related by Josephus, the immediate source of each drama. The *Jewish Antiquities* was drawn on chiefly for both plays, but the *Herod and Antipater* was also indebted to the *Jewish War*, and both tragedies show some independence in treatment of characters and plot. Each drama is then examined separately in some forty pages dealing with authorship, text, metre, content, source, characterization, structure, and style. A short conclusion declares that neither play influenced the later tragedies on the same subject.

One virtue of the dissertation is that its author makes no claim to having accomplished more than he has done, nor does he lose perspective so as unduly to magnify the importance of